

1-31. (Canceled)

32. (New) An isolated and purified nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13, or a part thereof.

33. (New) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 32 wherein the molecules are from about 10 to 20 nucleotides in length.

34. (New) A composition comprising an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13, or a part thereof.

35. (New) The composition of claim 34, further comprising one or more nucleic acid molecules comprising the nucleotide sequence of any one of SEQ ID NO: 1 to 12 or 14 to 68, or a part thereof.

36. (New) The composition according to claim 34 or 35 wherein the molecules are from about 10 to 20 nucleotides in length.

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1. 37. **(New)** A primer comprising a nucleotide sequence corresponding to the nucleotide sequence from position 586 to 606 or position 791 to 810 of SEQ ID NO: 13.

38. **(New)** A composition comprising the primer according to claim 37.

39. **(New)** A composition comprising the primer according to claim 37, and further comprising one or more primers comprising a nucleotide sequence corresponding to any of primer 1 or primer 2 in the table below:

SEQ ID NO:	H specificity	Positions of primer 1	Positions of primer 2
66	1	892-909	1172-1189
67	2	568-587	1039-1056
6, 17, 42	4	466-483	628-648
7	5	697-714	877-897
8	6	565-585	799-816
9	7	553-570	1483-1500

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11	9	616-633	838-855
12 (49)	10	559-579	697-717
14	12	892-909	1172-1189
15	14	586-606	793-813
16	15	640-660	817-834
68	16	649-666	925-942
18	18	589-606	802-819
17	19	607-624	538-855
20	20	574-591	760-780
21, 46	21	676-693	862-879
22	23	637-654	1336-1353
23	24	496-516	772-792
25	26	553-570	772-789
26	27	685-702	799-819
27	28	592-609	778-798
28	29	538-555	757-774
29	30	814-831	943-962
30	31	571-588	790-807
31	32	514-831	1057-1074
32	33	553-570	718-735
33	34	568-585	796-816

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36, 53	38	553-573	709-729
37	39	556-573	718-735
39	41	598-615	784-801
40	42	547-567	715-735
41	43	580-597	844-861
43	45	640-657	943-963
44	46	565-582	781-801
48	49	589-609	754-771
50	51	565-582	1042-1059
51	52	598-615	829-846
54	56	697-714	877-897
10 and 38		562-579	1045-1062
24		529-549	703-723
34		769-789	1045-1065
35		520-537	715-735
47		568-585	835-852
52		988-1008	1344-1364

40. **(New)** A method of detecting the H serotype of *E. coli* in a sample, the method comprising the following steps:

(a) contacting a gene of an *E. coli* in the sample with a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 32, in conditions sufficient to allow the nucleic acid molecule to hybridise to a nucleic acid molecule having a complementary nucleic acid sequence; and

(b) detecting whether the nucleic acid molecule is hybridised to the gene, to detect the H serotype of the *E. coli* in the sample.

41. **(New)** A method of detecting the H serotype of *E. coli* in a sample, the method comprising the following steps:

(a) contacting a gene of an *E. coli* in the sample with a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 32 and one or more nucleic acid molecules comprising a nucleotide sequence of any one of SEQ ID NO: 1 to 12 or 14 to 44 or 46 to 55 or 57 to 68 or a part thereof, in conditions sufficient to allow at least one of the nucleic acid molecules to hybridise to a nucleic acid molecule having a complementary nucleic acid sequence; and

(b) detecting whether one or more of the at least one nucleic acid molecules is hybridised to the gene, to detect the H serotype of the *E. coli* in the sample.

42. (New) A method according to claim 40 or 41 wherein the hybridised nucleic acid molecules are detected by Southern Blot analysis.

43. (New) A method of detecting the H serotype of *E. coli* in a sample, the method comprising the following steps:

(a) contacting a gene of an *E. coli* in the sample with a pair of nucleic acid molecules according to claim 32, in conditions sufficient to allow the pair of nucleic acid molecules to hybridise to a nucleic acid molecule with a complementary nucleic acid sequence; and

(b) detecting whether the pair of nucleic acid molecules is hybridised to the gene, to detect the H serotype of the *E. coli* in the sample.

44. (New) A method of detecting the H serotype of *E. coli* in a sample, the method comprising the following steps:

(a) contacting a gene of an *E. coli* in the sample with a pair of nucleic acid molecules according to claim 32 and one or more pairs of nucleic acid molecules comprising a nucleic acid sequence of all or part of any one of SEQ ID NO: 1 to 12

or 14 to 44 or 46 to 55 or 57 to 68 or a part thereof, in conditions sufficient to allow at least one pair of nucleic acid molecules to hybridise to a nucleic acid molecule with a complementary nucleic acid sequence; and

(b) detecting whether one or more of the at least one pairs of nucleic acid molecules is hybridised to the gene, to detect the H serotype of the *E. coli* in the sample.

45. **(New)** A method according to claim 43 or 44 wherein the hybridised pair of nucleic acid molecules are detected by the polymerase chain reaction.

46. **(New)** A method for detecting the H and O serotype of *E. coli* in a sample, the method comprising the following steps:

(a) contacting a gene of the *E. coli* with a nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:

wbdH (nucleotide position 739 to 1932 of SEQ ID NO:45,

wzx (nucleotide position 8646 to 9911 of SEQ ID NO:45,

wzy (nucleotide position 9901 to 10953 of SEQ ID NO:45,

wbdM (nucleotide position 11821 to 12945 of SEQ ID NO:45,

wbdN (nucleotide position 79 to 861 of SEQ ID NO:56),

wbdO (nucleotide position 2011 to 2757 of SEQ ID NO:56),

wbdP (nucleotide position 5257 to 6471 of SEQ ID NO:56),
wbdR (nucleotide position 13156 to 13821 of SEQ ID NO:56),
wzx (nucleotide position 2744 to 4135 of SEQ ID NO:56) and
wzy (nucleotide position 858 to 2042 of SEQ ID NO:56),
in conditions sufficient to allow the nucleic acid molecule to
hybridise to a nucleic acid molecule having a complementary
nucleic acid sequence;

(b) contacting a gene of an *E. coli* in the sample with a
nucleic acid molecule according to claim 32, in conditions
sufficient to allow the nucleic acid molecule to hybridise to a
nucleic acid molecule having a complementary nucleic acid
sequence; and

(c) detecting whether the nucleic acid molecules are
hybridised to the genes, to detect the H and O serotype of the
E. coli in the sample.

47. **(New)** A method for detecting the H and O serotype of *E. coli* in a sample, the method comprising the following steps:

(a) contacting a gene of the *E. coli* with a nucleic acid
molecule selected from the group consisting of:

wbdH (nucleotide position 739 to 1932 of SEQ ID NO:45,
wzx (nucleotide position 8646 to 9911 of SEQ ID NO:45,

wzy (nucleotide position 9901 to 10953 of SEQ ID NO:45,
wbdM (nucleotide position 11821 to 12945 of SEQ ID NO:45,
wbdN (nucleotide position 79 to 861 of SEQ ID NO:56),
wbdO (nucleotide position 2011 to 2757 of SEQ ID NO:56),
wbdP (nucleotide position 5257 to 6471 of SEQ ID NO:56),
wbdR (nucleotide position 13156 to 13821 of SEQ ID NO:56),
wzx (nucleotide position 2744 to 4135 of SEQ ID NO:56) and
wzy (nucleotide position 858 to 2042 of SEQ ID NO:56),
in conditions sufficient to allow the nucleic acid molecule to
hybridise to a nucleic acid molecule having a complementary
nucleic acid sequence;

(b) contacting a gene of an *E. coli* in the sample with a
nucleic acid molecule according to claim 32 and one or more
nucleic acid molecules comprising a nucleotide sequence of
any one of SEQ ID NO: 1 to 12 or 14 to 44 or 46 to 55 or 57
to 68 or a part thereof, in conditions sufficient to allow at
least one of the nucleic acid molecules to hybridise to a
nucleic acid molecule having a complementary nucleic acid
sequence; and

(c) detecting whether the nucleic acid molecules are
hybridised to the genes, to detect the H and O serotype of the
E. coli in the sample.

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48. (New) A method according to claim 46 or 47 wherein the nucleic acid molecule of step (a) is a forward primer or a reverse primer selected from the group of

Forward primer (base position of SEQ ID NO:1)	Reverse Primer (base position of SEQ ID NO:1)
739-757	1941-1924
925-942	1731-1714
925-942	1347-1330
1165-1182	1731-1714
8646-8663	9908-9891
8906-8923	9468-9451
9150-9167	9754-9737
9976-9996	10827-10807
10113-10130	10484-10467
10931-10949	11824-11796
11821-11844	12945-12924
12042-12059	12447-12430
12258-12275	12698-12681

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Forward primer (base position of SEQ ID NO:2)	Reverse Primer (base position of SEQ ID NO:2)
79-96	861-844
184-201	531-514
310-327	768-751
858-875	2042-2025
1053-1070	1619-1602
1278-1295	1913-1896
2011-2028	2757-2740
2110-2127	2493-2476
2305-2322	2682-2665
2744-2761	4135-4118
2942-2959	3628-3611
5257-5274	6471-6454
5440-5457	5973-5956
5707-5724	6231-6214
13261-13278	13629-13612
13384-13401	13731-13714

49. (New) A method according to claim 46 or 47 wherein the hybridised nucleic acid molecules are detected by Southern Blot analysis.

50. (New) A method for detecting the H and O serotype of *E. coli* in a sample, the method comprising the following steps:

(a) contacting a gene of the *E. coli* with a pair of nucleic acid molecules selected from the group consisting of: *wbdH* (nucleotide position 739 to 1932 of SEQ ID NO:45, *wzx* (nucleotide position 8646 to 9911 of SEQ ID NO:45, *wzy* (nucleotide position 9901 to 10953 of SEQ ID NO:45, *wbdM* (nucleotide position 11821 to 12945 of SEQ ID NO:45, *wbdN* (nucleotide position 79 to 861 of SEQ ID NO:56), *wbdO* (nucleotide position 2011 to 2757 of SEQ ID NO:56), *wbdP* (nucleotide position 5257 to 6471 of SEQ ID NO:56), *wbdR* (nucleotide position 13156 to 13821 of SEQ ID NO:56), *wzx* (nucleotide position 2744 to 4135 of SEQ ID NO:56) and *wxy* (nucleotide position 858 to 2042 of SEQ ID NO:56) in conditions sufficient to allow the pair of nucleic acid molecules to hybridise to a nucleic acid molecule having a complementary nucleic acid sequence;

(b) contacting a flagellin gene of an *E. coli* in the sample with a pair of nucleic acid molecules according to claim 32, in conditions sufficient to allow the pair of nucleic acid molecules to hybridise to a nucleic acid molecule having a complementary nucleic acid sequence; and

(c) detecting whether the pairs of nucleic acid molecules are hybridised to the genes, to detect the H and O serotype of the *E. coli* in the sample.

51. **(New)** A method for detecting the H and O serotype of *E. coli* in a sample, the method comprising the following steps:

(a) contacting a gene of the *E. coli* with a pair of nucleic acid molecules selected from the group consisting of:
wbdH (nucleotide position 739 to 1932 of SEQ ID NO:45,
wzx (nucleotide position 8646 to 9911 of SEQ ID NO:45,
wzy (nucleotide position 9901 to 10953 of SEQ ID NO:45,
wbdM (nucleotide position 11821 to 12945 of SEQ ID NO:45,
wbdN (nucleotide position 79 to 861 of SEQ ID NO:56),
wbdO (nucleotide position 2011 to 2757 of SEQ ID NO:56),
wbdP (nucleotide position 5257 to 6471 of SEQ ID NO:56),
wbdR (nucleotide position 13156 to 13821 of SEQ ID NO:56),
wzx (nucleotide position 2744 to 4135 of SEQ ID NO:56) and

wxy (nucleotide position 858 to 2042 of SEQ ID NO:56)
in conditions sufficient to allow the pair of nucleic acid
molecules to hybridise to a nucleic acid molecule having a
complementary nucleic acid sequence;

(b) contacting a gene of an *E. coli* in the sample with a
pair of nucleic acid molecules according to claim 32 and one
or more pairs of nucleic acid molecules comprising a sequence
of any one of SEQ ID NO: 1 to 12 or 14 to 44 or 46 to 55 or
57 to 68 or a part thereof, in conditions sufficient to allow
at least one pair of nucleic acid molecules to hybridise to a
nucleic acid molecule having a complementary nucleic acid
sequence; and

(c) detecting whether the pairs of nucleic acid molecules
are hybridised to the genes, to detect the H and O serotype of
the *E. coli* in the sample.

52. **(New)** A method according to claim 50 or 51 wherein the
nucleic acid molecules of the pair of step (a) are a primer
pair comprising a forward primer and a reverse primer
selected from

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Forward primer (base position of SEQ ID NO:1)	Reverse Primer (base position of SEQ ID NO:1)
739-757	1941-1924
925-942	1731-1714
925-942	1347-1330
1165-1182	1731-1714
8646-8663	9908-9891
8906-8923	9468-9451
9150-9167	9754-9737
9976-9996	10827-10807
10113-10130	10484-10467
10931-10949	11824-11796
11821-11844	12945-12924
12042-12059	12447-12430
12258-12275	12698-12681

Forward primer (base position of SEQ ID NO:2)	Reverse Primer (base position of SEQ ID NO:2)
79-96	861-844

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184-201	531-514
310-327	768-751
858-875	2042-2025
1053-1070	1619-1602
1278-1295	1913-1896
2011-2028	2757-2740
2110-2127	2493-2476
2305-2322	2682-2665
2744-2761	4135-4118
2942-2959	3628-3611
5257-5274	6471-6454
5440-5457	5973-5956
5707-5724	6231-6214
13261-13278	13629-13612
13384-13401	13731-13714

53. **(New)** A method according to claim 50 or 51 wherein the hybridised pairs of nucleic acid molecules are detected by the polymerase chain reaction.

54. **(New)** A method for detecting the H and O serotype of *E. coli* in a sample, the method comprising the following steps:

(a) contacting a gene of an *E. coli* in the sample with a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 32, in conditions sufficient to allow the nucleic acid molecule to hybridise to the gene; and

(b) detecting whether the nucleic acid molecule is hybridised to the gene, to detect the H and O serotype of *E. coli* in the sample.

55. **(New)** A method according to claim 50 wherein the gene of an *E. coli* in the sample is contacted with a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 32, and a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOS: 9, 55, 57 to 65 or a part thereof.

56. **(New)** A method according to claim 40 or 41 wherein the sample is selected from the group consisting of a sample derived from food, a sample derived from faeces and a sample derived from a patient or animal.

57. (New) A kit for identifying the H serotype of *E. coli*, the kit comprising a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 32, a primer according to claim 37, or a composition according to claim 34, 35 or 39.

58. (New) A kit for identifying the H and O serotype of *E. coli*, the kit comprising:

(a) a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 32; and

(b) at least one nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:

wbdH (nucleotide position 739 to 1932 of SEQ ID NO: 45),
wzx (nucleotide position 8646 to 9911 of SEQ ID NO: 45),
wzy (nucleotide position 9901 to 10953 of SEQ ID NO: 45),
wbdM (nucleotide position 11821 to 12945 of SEQ ID NO: 45),
wbdN (nucleotide position 79 to 861 of SEQ ID NO: 56),
wbdO (nucleotide position 2011 to 2757 of SEQ ID NO: 56),
wbdP (nucleotide position 5257 to 6471 of SEQ ID NO: 56),
wbdR (nucleotide position 13156 to 13821 of SEQ ID NO: 56),
wzx (nucleotide position 2744 to 4135 of SEQ ID NO: 56) and
wzy (nucleotide position 858 to 2042 of SEQ ID NO: 56).

59. (New) A kit for identifying the H and O serotype of *E. coli*, the kit comprising:

(a) a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 32 and one or more nucleic acid molecules comprising the nucleotide sequence of any one of SEQ ID NO: 1 to 12 or 14 to 44 or 46 to 55 or 57 to 68 or a part thereof; and

(b) at least one nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:

wbdH (nucleotide position 739 to 1932 of SEQ ID NO: 45),
wzx (nucleotide position 8646 to 9911 of SEQ ID NO: 45),
wzy (nucleotide position 9901 to 10953 of SEQ ID NO: 45),
wbdM (nucleotide position 11821 to 12945 of SEQ ID NO: 45),
wbdN (nucleotide position 79 to 861 of SEQ ID NO: 56),
wbdO (nucleotide position 2011 to 2757 of SEQ ID NO: 56),
wbdP (nucleotide position 5257 to 6471 of SEQ ID NO: 56),
wbdR (nucleotide position 13156 to 13821 of SEQ ID NO: 56),
wzx (nucleotide position 2744 to 4135 of SEQ ID NO: 56) and
wzy (nucleotide position 858 to 2042 of SEQ ID NO: 56).

60. (New) A kit according to claim 58 or 59 wherein the composition of (b) comprises a forward primer or a reverse primer selected from the group of

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Forward primer (base position of SEQ ID NO:1)	Reverse Primer (base position of SEQ ID NO:1)
739-757	1941-1924
925-942	1731-1714
925-942	1347-1330
1165-1182	1731-1714
8646-8663	9908-9891
8906-8923	9468-9451
9150-9167	9754-9737
9976-9996	10827-10807
10113-10130	10484-10467
10931-10949	11824-11796
11821-11844	12945-12924
12042-12059	12447-12430
12258-12275	12698-12681

Forward primer (base position of SEQ ID NO:2)	Reverse Primer (base position of SEQ ID NO:2)
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79-96	861-844
184-201	531-514
310-327	768-751
858-875	2042-2025
1053-1070	1619-1602
1278-1295	1913-1896
2011-2028	2757-2740
2110-2127	2493-2476
2305-2322	2682-2665
2744-2761	4135-4118
2942-2959	3628-3611
5257-5274	6471-6454
5440-5457	5973-5956
5707-5724	6231-6214
13261-13278	13629-13612
13384-13401	13731-13714

primers shown in the Tables above.

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61. (New) A kit according to claim 58 or 59 wherein the composition of (a) comprises a forward primer and a reverse primer selected from the group of

Forward primer (base position of SEQ ID NO:1)	Reverse Primer (base position of SEQ ID NO:1)
739-757	1941-1924
925-942	1731-1714
925-942	1347-1330
1165-1182	1731-1714
8646-8663	9908-9891
8906-8923	9468-9451
9150-9167	9754-9737
9976-9996	10827-10807
10113-10130	10484-10467
10931-10949	11824-11796
11821-11844	12945-12924
12042-12059	12447-12430
12258-12275	12698-12681

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Forward primer (base position of SEQ ID NO:2)	Reverse Primer (base position of SEQ ID NO:2)
79-96	861-844
184-201	531-514
310-327	768-751
858-875	2042-2025
1053-1070	1619-1602
1278-1295	1913-1896
2011-2028	2757-2740
2110-2127	2493-2476
2305-2322	2682-2665
2744-2761	4135-4118
2942-2959	3628-3611
5257-5274	6471-6454
5440-5457	5973-5956
5707-5724	6231-6214
13261-13278	13629-13612
13384-13401	13731-13714

forward and reverse primers shown in the Tables above.

62. **(New)** A method according to claim 43 or 44 wherein the sample is selected from the group consisting of a sample derived from food, a sample derived from faeces and a sample derived from a patient or animal.

63. **(New)** A method according to claim 46 or 47 wherein the sample is selected from the group consisting of a sample derived from food, a sample derived from faeces and a sample derived from a patient or animal.

64. **(New)** A method according to claim 50 or 51 wherein the sample is selected from the group consisting of a sample derived from food, a sample derived from faeces and a sample derived from a patient or animal.

65. **(New)** A method according to claim 54 wherein the sample is selected from the group consisting of a sample derived from food, a sample derived from faeces and a sample derived from a patient or animal.

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66. (New) A kit for identifying the H and O serotype of *E. coli*, the kit comprising:

(a) at least one primer according to claim 37 or a composition according to claim 39; and

(b) at least one nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:

wbdH (nucleotide position 739 to 1932 of SEQ ID NO: 45),
wzx (nucleotide position 8646 to 9911 of SEQ ID NO: 45),
wzy (nucleotide position 9901 to 10953 of SEQ ID NO: 45),
wbdM (nucleotide position 11821 to 12945 of SEQ ID NO: 45),
wbdN (nucleotide position 79 to 861 of SEQ ID NO: 56),
wbdO (nucleotide position 2011 to 2757 of SEQ ID NO: 56),
wbdP (nucleotide position 5257 to 6471 of SEQ ID NO: 56),
wbdR (nucleotide position 13156 to 13821 of SEQ ID NO: 56),
wzx (nucleotide position 2744 to 4135 of SEQ ID NO: 56) and
wzy (nucleotide position 858 to 2042 of SEQ ID NO: 56).

36. 67. (New) A kit for identifying the H serotype of *E. coli*, the kit comprising a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 32 and one or more nucleic acid molecules comprising the nucleotide sequence of any one of SEQ ID NO: 1 to 12, 14 to 44, 46 to 55 or 57 to 68 or a part thereof.

37. 68. (New) A kit comprising a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 32 and one or more nucleic acid molecules comprising the nucleotide sequence of any one of SEQ ID NO: 1 to 12 or 14 to 68 or a part thereof.